



courtesy Photo

HAPPY DAY—The crowd gathered in the RCC cafeteria cheers as Barack Obama is sworn in as president on Jan. 20.

RCC STUDENTS TALK ABOUT WORK

BY MICHAEL GRAHAM

With the economy in such bad shape, it is essential that many RCC students work. However, what kind of jobs are they actually getting? To what extent does working affect their GPA? How many hours are practical and how many are too many? To find out these answers, we interviewed ten students around the campus to learn more about RCC students and work:

Venus Trent is a 20-year old criminal justice major. She works, goes to school and plays basketball for the RCC women's Tigers. Venus has been working security at the John Hancock Center for almost eight months and averages about 12-16 hours per week. She uses her pay for bills, transportation, books and to help out her mother. Venus' job

involves her doing visual tours of the towers and checking bags, IDs and lobby access. She does not feel that working affects her GPA. Venus is striving to become a lawyer.

Willie Barboza works for Altel Wireless as a customer service representative, in the Boylston/Newbury area. Willie works fulltime and goes to school. He said, "Working a full-time job doesn't affect my GPA." Willie uses his money for bills, books, and some tuition fees.

Kevin Lee is a business major who works at Tedeschi as a cashier/customer service representative in Hyde Park. Kevin has been working at Tedeschi for about a year and told us, "I work to pay bills, school books, and some personal expenses." When I asked Kevin if work affects his GPA, he said, "No. My job



Gazette Photo by Michael Graham

Student Adler Fedestin says he thinks he would get better grades if he didn't have to work.

is very flexible when it comes to school." He averages about 15 hours a week.

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STEM PROGRAM OFFERS RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

BY SHELLY JOHNSON-PAYNE

Funded in part by the National Science Foundation, the Urban Massachusetts Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (UMLSAMP) Program for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) strives to increase post-secondary degree attainment in the STEM fields among underrepresented groups. To this end, the program seeks to strengthen collegiate "Communities of Science" through on-campus and off-campus activities, support from local industry, and collaborative events with seven other institutions: UMass Dartmouth,

UMass Lowell, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Bristol Community College, Bunker Hill Community College, Middlesex Community College, and Roxbury Community College (RCC).

As part of the UMLSAMP Program's commitment to improve the enrollment, retention and graduation of STEM-degreed students, the program in its third year will emphasize the development of research skills through active involvement in research and technology laboratories. Enabling community college as well as university students to have laboratory and project experiences

while still in their first two years of college will allow them to enhance their standing for STEM graduation as well as employment in our evolving 21st century science-based economy.

Two UMLSAMP community college students received an \$800 stipend for this Fall for participation in a research laboratory at the University of Massachusetts Boston. UMass Boston, as well as the other seven alliance colleges and universities within UMLSAMP, have

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SGA OFFICERS ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT ACTIVITIES

BY MICHAEL GRAHAM

Since the semester started, there has been a lack of interaction between the student body and SGA (Student Government Association), which has some people questioning the leadership and the direction of student representatives. In a recent interview with Vice President John A. Murphy III, and Corresponding Secretary Altia Taylor, they answered some questions pertaining to the criticisms around campus. President of SGA, Mary Delgado, came in at the end of the interview.



Gazette Photo by Michael Graham

John A. Murphy III, Vice President of SGA.

MG: Can you tell me what SGA has been doing for students this semester?

V.P. John Murphy: It helps in promoting other club events, telling students about the Honors Program and trying to help them get into the Honors Program.

MG: What events does SGA have planned for this semester?

JM: "There will be an open forum for Ruumba Africa, an African dance. SGA would like to expose students to black culture because this is a predominantly black college."

MG: When students voted for the new officers of SGA, promises were made about how SGA was going to be more active and involved with student affairs, among other things. How do you see that those promises have been filled?

JM: "We have been working with [Dean of Career and Transfer Services] Mark Garth to get the students more tutors for math and science, been the student voice in committee meetings and one thing we are working on is trying to boost the morale of students and get more students involved with student affairs."

MG: Can you comment on the rumor that SGA is having problems functioning as a unit?

Corresponding Secretary Altia Taylor: "People have differences of opinion about proper management. We have strong-minded and passionate students who can agree to disagree."

MG: There are students and some faculty asking where our leaders are. What do you see that could be improved to show a sense of united

leadership to the college?

JM: "Become more visible... if people don't see what's going on, then it doesn't have much effect."

MG: There was an emergency meeting with SGA on Feb.12. What was discussed in this meeting?

JM: "Budget cuts [to the college] of 50 percent, stepping up their game, getting more organized so that we can become more efficient for the students."

MG: What has President Mary Delgado done about the current problems in SGA?

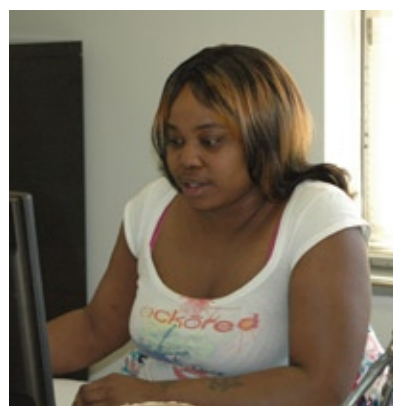
AT: "She has been on top of things."

JM: "No comment. All I can say is that if I chose to run for president, there would be things that I would do differently."

MG: Is there a policy in place to inform students of what happens at the meetings? What is that policy?

CS: "The minutes have been posted

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Gazette Photo by Michael Graham

Altia Taylor, Corresponding Secretary of SGA.



Courtesy Photo

Fetiya Omer, RCC student, quotes Mahatma Gandhi about her experience in the Bridges Program: “I want to be the change I would like to see.”

RCC STUDENTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES IN THE BRIDGES PROGRAM

This past summer I participated in my first research experience as a part of the Bridges to Baccalaureate Program, funded by NIH (National Institutes for Health). The 10-week program was at UMass Boston, and I worked in the Kleene Lab.

My mentor was Sabrina Hawthorne, who trained us. Working in the lab was like a whole new learning experience. I learned so much in a short period of time, and I never thought I could do all the things I accomplished. I did research on spermatogenic cells and cancer testis which researches the connection of the proliferation of sperm cells and cancer cells. It also involves genetics and that is the type of research I want to do in the future.

During my experience Sabrina told me about a new field in re-

search called Nutritional Genomics and it was exactly what I wanted to study.

I got to continue my research during the school year; I did a lot of bioinformatics projects that will help my future research experiences. I am so glad that I got to participate in this program and I thank all of the people involved because it has helped me so much.

Sequoia Varona

The program was helpful to me in terms of the lab work and the courses. Whenever I needed help with homework or exams, the study group was always there for me and everyone helped each other. It was amazing! Without this program, I would not feel so knowledgeable about the courses I have taken.

Moreover, other days I would meet with Professor Harrison Murbi to help him complete his class assignments, set up labs, make up quizzes, correct papers and read chapters to prepare the class for lab work and lectures. I assisted students with any questions they had, made copies and found helpful information online to encourage students to better understand the specific lab taught that day.

This has been a great experience for me and has helped me to be more organized, knowledgeable, mature and motivated to succeed in school. I am striving to be a more educated person who will eventually go on to graduate school and who hopes to never stop learning.

Becta Michel

STUDENT WORK

Continued from page 1

Zwelky Cruz is a criminal justice major. He has been working at the Reggie Lewis Center for about 2 months as an Event Staff Coordinator. His job entails him setting up the track equipment for the Reggie Lewis Center track meets and gathering other material need for activities and events at the Reggie Lewis. Zwelky uses his income for personal expenses. When I asked him if working at the Reggie Lewis hurt his GPA, his answer was “Yes.” Zwelky feels that he could potentially get better grades if he didn’t have to work.

Wesley Jean-Baptiste, a 19-year old BMT major who wishes to become an actor, is a dietician assistant at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. Wesley thinks that working hurts his GPA. He said that “working doesn’t give me as much

time to study as I would like.” Wesley has been working as a dietician assistant for 2 years and uses his income to pay for his tuition and books for school.

Lorean Ouiedo is a business major, and she works for a phone company, Metro PCS, in East Boston. Lorean’s job involves activating phones, customer service, and cash handling. She averages about 24 hours a week at her job. She uses her income for school expenses and bills. She thinks it’s hard to work and go to school.

Eriziza Guerrero is a biology major and works at the Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center. She has been working for 2 years part-time. Eriziza works because it helps her pay her school tuition fees, books and personal expenses. Eriziza thinks that working doesn’t hurt her GPA.

Adler Fedestin, a broadcast media technology major, has been working at Rite Aid in the Fenway area for the past

six years. Adler averages 17-32 hours per week as a part-time employee. He feels that if he did not work, he would have a higher GPA. Adler is working to pay bills, for books, and other personal expenses.

Asia Morris is a theater arts major. She works for Allied Barton Security located at Northeastern University. She is responsible for making sure that there are no trespassers on school property. Asia works to pay her tuition fees, books and other expenses. Asia doesn’t believe that her job affects her GPA.

Taronna Billingssea, who hasn’t decided on a major, is a bartender at Macomba on River Street. She said that “working is essential to my survival. Working doesn’t affect my grades as long as you’re disciplined and have a goal in mind. That’s what encourages you to do well in school.”

The writer is a student at RCC.

STEM PROGRAM

Continued from page 1

capabilities of placing multiple numbers of eligible students into such opportunities where faculty are willing to mentor and support undergraduates in their STEM oriented laboratories.

The Bridges to Baccalaureate Program (BRIDGES) is an opportunity for RCC students who are engaged in the STEM , i.e. Physical, Biomedical, and Life Sciences,

to work in a science laboratory at UMass Boston with a project director and a biology professor who will facilitate them through ongoing and upcoming projects where needs assessments are done, orientation and lab visits, advising, facilitated study groups and academic tutoring, biomedical research seminars, pre-calculus workshops, research skills workshops and monitored research experience takes place.

The writer is a professor in the STEM program at RCC.

APPLICATIONS, INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Applications for the Bridges to Baccalaureate (BRIDGES) Program and the Urban Massachusetts Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (UMLSAMP) Program can be obtained by calling Shelly Johnson-Payne at (617) 541-5304 or by emailing Harrison Murbi, hmurbi@rcc.mass.edu and Andrella King, aking@rcc.mass.edu. Please keep on the lookout for our link in the Math, Science and Technology website through Roxbury Community College.

Additionally, an information session on these STEM Programs to which students can apply will be held on Thurs., March 5, 2009 in room 121, from 12 noon until 1:30 p.m. There will be guest speakers to give students an overview of the program, pizza, drinks and more. Please come and join us!

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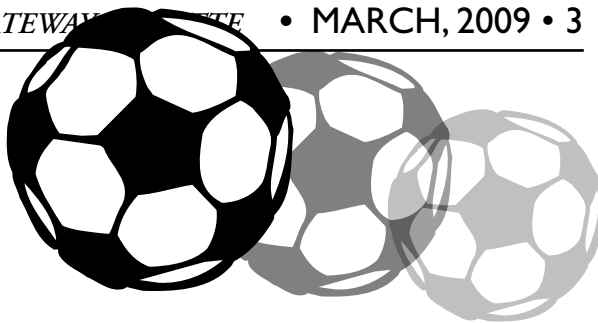
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Courtesy Photo

RCC student Chinyere Betty Ihenetu, shown here in the lab, participated in the summer research program at Boston University last summer.

RCC SPORTS



CAPEHART NAMED NJCAA DIVISION III PLAYER OF THE WEEK

BY ERIN HARPER

Roxbury Community College (RCC) Women's Basketball player Willeen Capehart was named the NJCAA's (National Junior College Athletic Association) Division III Player of the Week for the week ending Jan. 21, 2009.

The 5'7" guard from LaSalle Academy (Providence, RI) averaged 19 points and 8.3 rebounds over three games during the week, all victories for the Lady Tigers. On Jan. 13, Capehart posted 15 points and seven assists in a 89-54 win over Springfield Tech Community College. On Jan. 15, she put up a double-double, with 22 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists in a 97-27 victory over Bristol Community College. Finally, on Jan. 17, Capehart recorded 20 points and seven assists in a 78-27 win over Bunker Hill Community College.

"I'm honored to be chosen National JUCO player of the week," said Capehart. "It is great to be recognized for my personal achievements. However, basketball is a team game, and I am looking forward more to the collective success that my team has had all season."

Through 19 games this season, Capehart is ranked in the top 20 nationally in several categories, including second in three point field goal percentage (67.7 percent), eighth in assists per game (5.7), 11th in free throw percentage (80.3 percent) and 16th in steals per game (3.9). As captain, Capehart currently holds a 3.2 GPA, and is a major contributor to the 16-3 record (13-0 in conference) the Lady Tigers have accumulated thus far.

The writer is the sports information director of the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center and RCC Athletics.



Courtesy Photo

Willeen Capehart

LADY TIGERS WIN STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

BY ERIN HARPER

The Roxbury Community College (RCC) Women's Basketball Team won the MCCAC (Massachusetts Community College Athletic Conference) State Tournament on Feb. 22. RCC defeated Massasoit Community College in the Championship Game, 67-55, on Sunday afternoon.

In their first game of the tournament, the top-seeded Lady Tigers defeated the #4 seed, Holyoke Community College, on Saturday, 73-34, to qualify for the championship game. Against Holyoke, RCC was led by freshman forward Jessica Underwood of Lynn, MA, who posted 17 points and 12 rebounds. Freshman guard Christalee Lynch of Providence, RI, added 16 points and nine rebounds.

In the Championship game, the Lady Tigers were led by freshman captain Willeen Capehart of Providence, RI, who had 15 points and six assists. Lynch had another strong game with nine points and 16 rebounds.

"Winning the Massachusetts State Championship is an important step in the rebirth of the Women's Basketball Program at Roxbury Community College," said Head

Coach Mark Leszczyk. "Our student-athletes have worked hard on the court and in the classroom to put themselves in a position to enjoy some of the fruits of their labors. However, our goal as a team was to put ourselves in a position to win a National Championship, and that will be decided this coming weekend at the Regional Finals."

"Whatever this weekend's Regional Tournament results may be," continued Leszczyk, "I am extremely proud of my student-athletes on the Women's Basketball Team. I hope the entire Roxbury Community can share in the successes of this great group of young women."

RCC finished the regular season ranked ninth in the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) Division III National Poll. The team currently holds a 21-4 record, and will be the #1 seed at the NJCAA Region XXI Championship taking place Feb. 28 – March 1 at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester, Ma. RCC's opponent for the first game in the tournament will be announced after the committee meets to determine the seeds.

The writer is the sports information director of the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center and RCC Athletics.



Courtesy Photo

The RCC track team.

MARTIN NAMED NJCAA DIVISION III PLAYER OF THE WEEK

BY ERIN HARPER

Roxbury Community College (RCC) Men's Basketball player Darnell Martin was named the NJCAA's (National Junior College Athletic Association) Division III Player of the Week for the week ending February 7, 2009.

The 6'7" guard from Boston Adult Technical Academy averaged

19 points, 15.7 rebounds and nine blocks over three games during the week. On Feb. 3, Martin had 15 points and 17 rebounds in a 95-86 loss to Mass Bay Community College. He posted his best performance of the week in a 93-84 win over Ben Franklin Institute of Technology, in which he had 24 points, 15 rebounds, eight assists and an amazing 20 blocks. He then

closed out the week with 18 points, 15 rebounds, and five blocks in a 103-66 victory over Holyoke Community College.


RCC currently holds a 10-9 record, and concluded its regular season at Quinsigamond Community College on Feb. 14.

The writer is Sports Information Director, Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center and RCC Athletics.



Courtesy Photo

RCC cheerleaders.

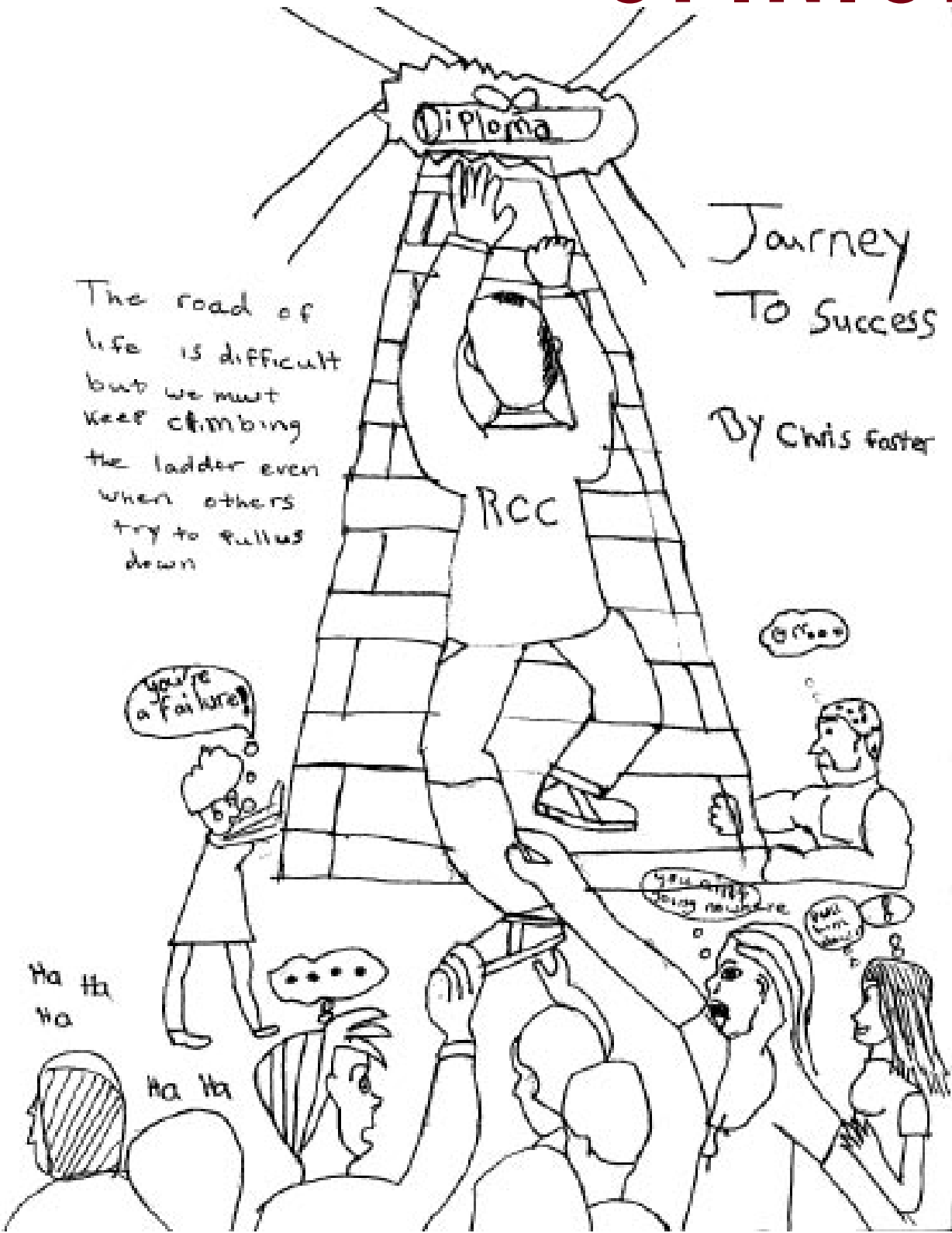


Roxbury Community College
GATEWAY GAZETTE
A publication of staff and students at
Roxbury Community College
1234 Columbus Avenue, Roxbury Crossing, Massachusetts 02120

Staff and students are invited to send letters to the editor, news tips, ideas for articles and photos and other information for the Gazette to writingcenter@roxbury.edu. All submissions are subject to editing and run on a space available basis. The opinions expressed in these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Faculty advisors: Judith Kahalas and Sandra Storey

OPINION



The Non-American Point of View

BY SHERENE MCKENLEY

As I watched the inauguration of Barack Obama on television, I was surprised by my interest. In actuality, my little fantasy involved Bush and Cheney being arrested and handcuffed at the conclusion of the inauguration ceremony. Eight years of George W. has left me not only jaded by a government “of the people, for the people and by the people,” serving the interests of the upper 1 percent, but also a culture of Americans who accepted the situation. Have you ever heard the quote: “The best trick the devil played on the world was to make us believe he didn’t exist”? The best trick our executive branch played on us was to make us believe we didn’t exist. The last eight years demonstrated the height of American apathy. It’s the only way I can come to terms with the treasonous activities of the Bush Administration. The Constitution was “misinter-

preted”; somehow CIA operatives were revealed during a time of war, and I don’t even want to get into his war for profit...but I will. If you really sit and think about Iraq and realize that the private corporations George W. Bush, Dick Cheney and Condoleezza Rice either once ran, or were board members of, or worked for, profited enormously from this “war.”(One the first things you learn in U.S. Government class, it’s not really a war unless declared by Congress, and the last time that happened was WW II). I think about all the Americans soldiers who died, friends and lovers mourning, and the broken families. The troops in the reserves are made to stay in Iraq for years at a time, all for an elusive political and corporate agenda. I imagine post 9/11 America as the survivor of a horrific crime; I still find it hard to wrap my mind around such a violent act. And just like a victim that tries to gain

back some sort of normalcy after your world has shattered, we were duped. They used the gut-wrenching idea of, “Maybe the next time it won’t be a hijacked airplane, but a nuclear bomb.” They used the darkness and the fear that in our minds was now suddenly everywhere, and in turn, we accepted destroying a nation. Although in time it came to pass where we said, “Hey, this isn’t what I signed up for,” but too late. We had already willingly drunk poison. But now, here we are. I am hopeful that everyone realizes that Barack Obama is a president of change, not because he’s black, but he has called upon us to rebuild our decayed crumbling America. I am comforted by everyone’s excitement. I am warmed by the fact that our ferocious patriotism stems from democracy, not war, and I am eager with the knowledge that I am not alone. The writer is Clerk of the Liberal Arts Division of RCC.

The Economic Crisis and RCC Students

BY BRANDON SMITH

As everyone should know by now, the United States is in a recession. The lines for unemployment have doubled as the year progressed. Local homes and retail stores are facing foreclosures and liquidation. Layoffs are in the thousands, and very few employers are hiring. The banking world and stocks on Wall Street are plummeting every day. I spoke to several staff members and students here at RCC to gain insight on how they have been coping with economic stress. Some have been fortunate to retain their employment during this economic climate, while others have been forced to join the ranks of the unemployed. Some have had to assume the position as the

main breadwinner for their family. Government funding, such as Childcare Choices, has also helped some households stay afloat. On the lighter side of a dark economic picture, President Obama’s Economic Recovery package was passed before Presidents Day. This should help with the cost of technology, education and universal health care. The writer is a student at RCC. Editor’s note: The Gateway Gazette welcomes feedback from its readers. Let us know how you are dealing with the financial crisis. We would also like to hear your suggestions on creative ways in saving money, especially as a college student. Please email us at writingcenter@roxbury.edu.

POETS’ CORNER

A.F.R.I.C.A POEM

BY CHRIS FOSTER

All mankind is said to have originated here.

Futile lands filled with abundant life.

Robbed of its people for cheap labor.

In the past.

Consistent struggle for independence.

Also called “The Cradle of Civilization.”



RCC STUDENTS PRESENT AT THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK

BY NASREEN LATIF

In December 2008, five students from Honors Microeconomics class were invited to present their project at the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston. This academic competition is open to all undergraduates attending community colleges and other two-year colleges in the Boston Fed's District: ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, and most of CT.

The RCC students who presented were Jamila Gilliam, Al Husain Shariff, Jean Samuel Merlain, Daniel Depina and Victor

Munoz. Each team was given approximately a half-hour, while the judges, who are administrators at the Federal Reserve Bank, evaluated the content of their presentations. The RCC students focused on recommendations to the Federal Reserve Bank on the current economic crisis. The content was said to be superior, and the judges remarked on the professionalism of the delivery.

The writer is a professor and a member of the Honors Committee and teaches Honors Microeconomics.

Courtesy Photo

RCC Students, along with Professors Nasreen Latif and Jean-Pierre Mulumba and representatives from the Federal Reserve Bank, receive recognition for their outstanding presentation.

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS DO WELL ON EXAMS

BY JAN JENKINS,
COORDINATOR OF RADIO
TECHNOLOGY

The Radiologic Technology program is well into its 4th year and will graduate the Class of 2009 in May.

The first class to graduate from the new program at RCC was the Class of 2007. That graduating

class had a 100 percent pass rate on the American Registry of Radiologic Technology's national exam. All of the graduating students are currently employed in the field of Radiologic Technology. Two of the students in that class have pursued advanced certification in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).

Most of the students are work-

ing at Boston area hospitals, but one student enjoys medical radiography of the mobile kind. This student works independently for a company that provides x-ray images for nursing homes and senior centers. Each day, you can see him with his portable equipment and his company owned car on his way to his next appointment. He

is providing a service to those who can't come to him for their needed medical images.

The Class of 2008 also has a 100 percent pass rate for the National Registry exam, but only 50 percent of those students have secured employment in the field of Radiologic Technology. Hiring freezes and re-organization have limited the local

job market.

The program is currently accepting applications for the Class of 2011. For more information, visit the program's web site for information about the program, the profession and the admissions process. www.rcc.mass.edu/radiology.

The writer is a professor in RCC's Radiologic Technology Program.

The

GATEWAY GAZETTE

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help put out the campus
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What's Your Opinion?

The Gazette also welcomes opinion on any topic of interest to the RCC community. Send your opinion in 500 words or fewer to writingcenter@roxbury.edu. Please provide your name for publication and your telephone number for verification purposes. The Gazette does not accept anonymous opinion pieces. The Gazette reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.